



TFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Liu et al.) Examiner
Serial No. 10/617,309) Barrett
Filed July 10, 2003) Art Unit
SPINAL IMPLANT METHOD AND) 3738
CUTTING TOOL PREPARATION)
ACCESSORY FOR MOUNTING THE)
IMPLANT)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
SUBMITTED UNDER 35 USC §121

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Communication dated December 15, 2004, please consider the following. This Response is being submitted on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 as the one-month deadline fell on a weekend and the following day, Monday, January 17, 2005, was a US Patent & Trademark Office holiday.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary, and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

January 18, 2005

(Date of Deposit)

James B. Myers

Name of Registered Representative

James B. Myers

Signature

January 18, 2005

Date of Signature